



Notice of Election

Provost’s Advisory Committee on Promotion and Tenure

To: Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty
From: Emily Stokes-Rees, Chair, University Senate Agenda Committee
Osamah Khalil, Chair, University Senate Committee on Appointment and Promotions

Date: January 18, 2022

On behalf of the University Senate, we would like to inform you of the upcoming election to fill vacant seats on the Provost’s Advisory Committee on Promotion and Tenure (Advisory Committee). This year, tenure-line faculty in Electorates 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9 will participate in this election. An election ballot will be sent to tenure-line faculty in the following electorates:

Table 1

Electorate	School/College
1	Architecture
3	Arts and Sciences—Sciences
4	Education
7	iSchool
8	Law
9	Maxwell

The election will open on **Tuesday, January 18, 2022, and will remain open until Tuesday, February 1, 2022**. Only those faculty in electorates with vacancies will vote in the election (See Table 1).

Please take this opportunity to review the details about the Advisory Committee, the election, and the ballot. Also, please review the attached listing of tenured professors eligible to serve as faculty representatives.

1. What is the purpose of the Advisory Committee, and how does it work?

In May 2014, the Board of Trustees changed the faculty promotion policies and set an expectation of new directions in our approach to making tenure and promotion decisions. The

most important element of the new policy was to make the promotion process consistent with the tenure process, with equivalent paths from the schools and colleges through the Provost and to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees. To assist in implementing this new direction, the Advisory Committee, a University-level review and advisory committee, was established.

The Advisory Committee is composed of full professors who assist the Provost in promoting the highest academic standards across the University. The Advisory Committee's advice is intended to balance comparable excellence across the schools and colleges with the need to support the specific excellence of each.

The Advisory Committee will read all candidate files designated by the Office of Academic Affairs to contain substantive disagreements between any layers of recommendation and those files that have the strong possibility of a negative determination. The Advisory Committee members will engage in timely consultation with the Provost and offer an advisory vote but will not issue a formal report or consider appeals.

As needed, the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs will convene seven members from the pool of twelve elected Advisory Committee members to review individual cases. Those seven members will be selected based on disciplinary closeness with that of the faculty member whose case is under review but will not be a person who has had any prior role in the tenure or promotion review or recommendation relating to that particular case within a department, school or college.

The Advisory Committee is chaired by the Provost and includes the Vice President for Research (or another full professor designee of the Provost) and the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, the latter of whom serves as convener of the Advisory Committee.

2. What is the composition of the electorates?

The Advisory Committee now has a different composition than when it was first convened in academic year 2015-2016. In academic year 2017-2018, following a review of the Advisory Committee's first two years, and in the spirit of ensuring greater disciplinary diversity and representation on the Advisory Committee, the electorates were reconfigured. With that change, each of the schools and colleges¹ now elects a representative who will be eligible to be called upon by the Provost to review individual cases. Each representative will serve for a period of two years.

Any Advisory Committee member serving out the remainder of a previously serving Advisory Committee member will continue to represent their respective school or college electorate until the original term is concluded. Electorates with a vacancy will receive a ballot to cast a vote.

3. Who is eligible to vote in the election for representatives to the Advisory Committee?

All tenured and tenure-track Syracuse University faculty members are eligible to vote for Advisory Committee representatives within their electorate.

¹ Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences comprise two electorates—one in the humanities and one in the sciences.

4. Who is eligible to serve on the Advisory Committee?

Tenured full professors are eligible to serve on the Advisory Committee, as members must be eligible within their respective school or college to vote on all promotion and tenure cases, including those cases for promotion to full professor. In cases where a faculty member serves on a school or college committee, that faculty member must recuse themselves from the deliberations of the Advisory Committee in cases in which they have had a prior role. While all members of the Advisory Committee must be tenured full professors, there is no requirement of prior or current service on a school or college promotion and tenure committee. Advisory Committee members will not be eligible to serve two consecutive terms. Additionally, faculty in administrative roles may not be eligible to serve on the ballot, depending on their promotion and tenure responsibilities such as deans, senior associate deans, vice deans, associate provosts, vice presidents, the Provost and the Chancellor.

5. Who served in the 2020-2021 academic year?

Table 2

Electorate	School/College	Representative	Term Ends
1	Architecture	Francisco Sanin	May 2021
2	Arts and Sciences—Humanities	Kenneth Baynes	May 2022
3	Arts and Sciences—Sciences	Scott Pitnick	May 2021
4	Education	Marcelle Haddix	May 2021
5	Engineering	Can Isik*	May 2022
6	Falk	Nancy Mudrick*	May 2022
7	iSchool	Ping Zhang	May 2021
8	Law	Christian Day	May 2021
9	Maxwell	William Horrace	May 2021
10	Newhouse	Melissa Chessher*	May 2022
11	Whitman	Maria Minniti*	May 2022
12	Visual and Performing Arts	Sarah McCoubrey	May 2022
--	Interim Vice Chancellor and Provost	John Liu, Chair	--
--	Interim Vice President for Research	Ramesh Raina	--
--	Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs	LaVonda N. Reed, Convener	--

* Electorates were randomly selected, and the representatives agreed to extend their term by one year (see Item #7).

6. Who served in the 2019-2020 academic year?

Table 3

Electorate	School/College	Representative	Term Ends
1	Architecture	Francisco Sanin	May 2021
2	Arts and Sciences—Humanities	Silvio Torres-Saillant**	May 2020
3	Arts and Sciences—Sciences	Scott Pitnick	May 2021
4	Education	Marcelle Haddix	May 2021
5	Engineering	Can Isik	May 2021
6	Falk	Nancy Mudrick	May 2021
7	iSchool	Ping Zhang	May 2021
8	Law	Christian Day	May 2021
9	Maxwell	William Horrace	May 2021
10	Newhouse	Melissa Chessher	May 2021
11	Whitman	Maria Minniti	May 2021
12	Visual and Performing Arts	Elisa Dekaney	May 2020
--	Interim Vice Chancellor and Provost	John Liu, Chair	--
--	Interim Vice President for Research	Ramesh Raina	--
--	Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs	LaVonda N. Reed, Convener	--

** Representative served out the remaining year of the two-year term of previous representative.

7. Why am I, or am I not, voting again?

Only those faculty in electorates with vacancies will vote in the election (See Table 1).

Additionally, in 2019-2020, ten of twelve representatives to the committee were in their first year of service. Without modification, the same would be true for 2021-2022. Thus, to ensure that at least half of the committee are not new members, there is a temporary change to the terms for Electorates 5, 6, 10, and 11 for 2021-2022.

To re-set the balance of years of service, some faculty elected to two-year terms in the 2019-2020 academic year agreed to extend their service for one additional year at the request of the Appointment and Promotions Committee of the University Senate. The representatives who extended their service came from Electorates 5, 6, 10, and 11, which were chosen at random.

The extension of terms for these representatives rebalances the length of experience of those serving on the committee such that half of the committee representatives will be in their first year and half will be in their second year of service, beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year.

8. What is the process for voting?

The University Senate Committee on Appointment and Promotions and the Senate Agenda Committee will administer the election for the Advisory Committee. All eligible faculty members will receive a ballot via email containing a link to an electronic ballot. All tenured and tenure-track faculty have been assigned to an electorate and will vote for three representatives from

their respective electorate. The Office of Institutional Research will tabulate the ballots and provide the results to the Senate Committee on Appointment and Promotions.

9. What is the timeline for the election process?

An email containing the ballot election link will be sent to voting faculty on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Voting will begin on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, and will remain open until Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

10. What is the process for selecting the representatives?

After the election closes, the chairperson of the University Senate Committee on Appointment and Promotions or the chairperson's delegate will contact the top vote-getters in each electorate and will present a slate of three from each electorate to the Provost. The Provost will select candidates from the slate for Advisory Committee membership.

11. If I have a joint or courtesy appointment, in which electorate will I vote?

Any tenured or tenure-track faculty with either a joint or courtesy appointment will vote in the electorate of their primary faculty appointment. *Any faculty member with such an appointment who would prefer assignment to the electorate of their secondary faculty appointment should contact us at susenate@syr.edu.* No faculty member is eligible to vote more than once or in more than one electorate.

12. Whom should I contact with questions?

If you have any technical questions about voting, please email help@syr.edu or call 315-443-2677.

For all other questions, please contact susenate@syr.edu.